



Vol. 7, No. 3
401

Feb. 14, 1960

memo: to Congress

From: 18,000,000 Union Members
and Their Families

You have urgent business this session:
The federal minimum wage law must be improved.

We ask you to extend coverage under the law so that millions of workers not now covered — the people who need it most — will have a floor under their wages and a ceiling on the hours they work.

We ask you to increase the minimum wage to at least \$1.25 an hour. Surely every American worker is entitled to at least that much.

Thank you for your cooperation. We'll be seeing you on Election Day next November.

Unions See Tough '60 Bargaining Despite Victory in Steel Strike

WASHINGTON (PAI)—The victory of the United Steelworkers over Big Steel may have taken some of the steam out of the management drive against unions, but it definitely has not halted it. Management is making every effort to recoup some of its lost momentum, particularly in the drive on work rules. At the same time, unions, taking nothing for granted, are blazing new paths in preparing for tough 1960 negotiations.

Business Week magazine reports this outlook:

"The work practices or management right issue will continue to be important at the bargaining tables; it's far from dead.

"Negotiations are going to be tougher as a result. The country has gone through one of the thorniest periods in many years and it isn't over. Bargaining will be explosive, because aggressiveness is going to show up on both sides of the table.

"Strikes will not mean, automatically, shutdowns of production facilities; this is part of management's stiffer attitude and aggressiveness."

The latter point by Business Week indicates that many sections of management are prepared to resort to strike-breaking and scab-recruiting in the effort to break the backs of strikes.

Current examples of such tactics are in the Portland newspaper strike, the Harriet-Henderson textile strike in North Carolina and the Wilson & Co. meat strike.

17,000 Shipbuilders Strike

One of the most obvious instances of management toughness is in the strike of 17,000 Marine and Shipbuilding Workers against eight plants of the Bethlehem Steel Co. The basic issue is management's demand for harsh work-rule changes unilaterally imposed during negotiations.

One of the most important negotiations now in progress is taking place on railroads. When the Steel settlement was announced there was widespread speculation that the heart of the management "featherbedding" stand had been yanked out. Now management seems to have regrouped its forces.

At the same time, the National Association of Manufacturers is trying to stiffen employer backbones on the work rules issue. The NAM has scheduled its 32nd Institute on Industrial Relations the middle of March in Hollywood, Fla. The subject of the conference: "The Man-

agement Function: Its Meaning and Recapture."

Electrical manufacturing is another industry where major contract talks are scheduled, particularly with General Electric and Westinghouse. GE has always taken a particularly tough line. This year the five AFL-CIO unions which deal with GE and Westinghouse have set up a united front through the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department.

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union is still having a bitter struggle

with the American Oil Company although one dispute with the Texas City, Tex., plant has been settled. In the RWDSU, a major struggle that appears lately to erupt in strikes is taking place with three major department stores in New York, Stern Bros., Bloomingdale's and Gimbel's. District 65 is seeking important improvements in wages and pensions, plus guarantees that work rules will not be watered down to harm the employees. Management resistance is bitter, and the union is mobilizing for strike action.

Greenberg Asks All-Out Aid For Wilson & Co. Strikers

NEW YORK CITY—Pres. Max Greenberg has called upon all locals of the RWDSU to respond to the appeal of the AFL-CIO for support of the Packinghouse Workers in its strike against Wilson & Co.—"a strike forced by a company clearly determined to break the union."

In a letter sent to every RWDSU affiliate, Greenberg enclosed a communique from AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany explaining the valiant struggle of 5,000 Wilson employees and their desperate need for financial help. "This is the fight of the entire trade union movement," he said. "We cannot allow anti-union campaigns such as this to succeed."

Meany accused the packing company of refusing to negotiate in good faith and of using "every despicable anti-labor device, including importing strikebreakers to destroy the union."

"We must make sure that these strikers are not starved into submission. We will do that job," Meany pledged.

"Here are the ways in which we can help:

"1. Make sure that every AFL-CIO member and every member of an AFL-CIO family knows that Wilson & Company products are made by strikebreakers.

"2. Provide the financial help which the Wilson strikers need desperately. Contributions from our national and international unions and from their local unions, from the directly affiliated local unions of the AFL-CIO, as well as from every state and local central body are vital to victory.

"Because of the urgency of the situation, I suggest your contributions be sent directly to UPWA Secretary-Treasurer G. R. Hathaway, 608 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. I urge you to be both generous and prompt.

"Every kind of assistance, moral, financial and organizational is needed. These 5,000 men and women have proved their trade unionism on the picket line during the past twelve weeks.

"We cannot let them down. We will not let them down."

Few Seats Left for RWDSU Europe Trip

They're going fast! Even though a second plane has been chartered, so many union members want to go to Europe this year—that it won't be long before the second plane is sold out too. That's why members who plan to go are advised to get their applications in immediately, since no additional planes can be chartered.

The 1960 tour will take off from New York's Idlewild Airport on Sunday, May 29 and will return 29 days later, on Monday, June 27, to the same airport. For the four weeks that the fortunate travelers are in Europe, they'll visit England, France, Switzerland, Italy and Monaco, traveling by air from London to Paris and by luxurious motor coach on the continent.

The entire 29-day trip, including air and land transportation, fine hotel accommodations, practically all meals, tips, taxes, admission fees, sightseeing—will cost \$695 per person.

Special arrangements have been made through both the tour agency which planned last summer's fine tour and the American Travel Association, a labor-sponsored non-profit cooperative organization, to provide the touring RWDSUers with the best of everything at the lowest possible cost. An added feature of the 1960 trip will be

an opportunity in each country to meet labor and government leaders and see something of present-day living and working conditions.

For those who want to take advantage of the low fares made possible through group charter travel, air transportation from New York to either London or Paris, with return flight from either city, is available at the remarkably low fare of \$250 for the round-trip flight. This is less than half the lowest economy class fare charged by regular trans-Atlantic airlines.

Whether you are interested in the entire tour or just the round-trip air transportation, fill in the coupon below and send it NOW, checking the appropriate box.

Transatlantic air transportation will be in a luxurious Douglas plane. Hot meals will be served during the flight by the three stewardesses, and beverages of all kinds will be available to passengers.

This tour is open only to union members and members of their immediate families (member's husband, wife, child or parent), who reside in the member's own household. Fill in the coupon and mail it immediately to The Record's Travel Dept., 132 West 43 Street, New York 36, N. Y.

I am interested in Air Transportation alone. ☐

I am interested in the complete European Tour. ☐

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rwdsu RECORD

Unionists Visit Congress In Minimum Wage Drive



NEW JERSEY unionists meet with Sen. Harrison Williams (seated at desk) to urge him to push minimum wage improvements in Senate Labor Committee and on floor when bill gets there. Flanking the Senator are Meyer Meyers of Local 108 and Int'l Rep. Frank Meloni. Also representing RWDSU in group is Milton Reverby of District 65, at extreme left, speaking for members of that union who work and live in New Jersey. Sen. Williams pledged support for efforts to improve law.



NEW YORK delegation met with both of state's senators: Jacob K. Javits, second from right, and Kenneth Keating, right. Presenting views of RWDSU members is 'Record' Editor Max Steinbock, left. Immediately to right of him are Local 1-S Pres. Sam Kovenetsky, Evelyn Dubrow of ILGWU and Milton Reverby of '65'. Both senators said they were in favor of extending coverage, though they were not yet prepared to commit themselves to specific proposals on either the increased minimum or the amount of coverage extension.



RWDSU GROUP which participated in launching the 1960 minimum wage campaign is shown just after briefing session Feb. 2. From left are Legislative Chairman Harry Ott of Local 149, Glen Dale, W. Va., Vice-Pres. Milton Reverby of District 65, N. Y., Int'l Rep. Charles Hess of Moundville, W. Va., Exec. Vice-Pres. Meyer Meyers of Local 108, Newark, N. J., Int'l Rep. Frank Meloni of Camden, N. J., Pres. Sam Kovenetsky of Local 1-S, N.Y., and 'Record' Editor Max Steinbock.

February 14, 1960

RWDSU Pitches In As AFL-CIO Launches Wage Law Campaign

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Eighty leaders of ten AFL-CIO unions from New York, New Jersey, West Virginia and Vermont launched the 1960 campaign for minimum wage improvements here Feb. 2 and 3. Among the delegates who urged their Senators and Representatives to extend coverage under the federal wage law and to boost the minimum to \$1.25 an hour were seven representatives of the RWDSU.

The particular objective of the unionists was to convince Senators from the four states, all of whom are on the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, that the Senate should act promptly on the bill approved last summer by Sen. John F. Kennedy's subcommittee. That bill would provide both the \$1.25 minimum and extension of coverage to seven million additional workers not now covered by the law.

The RWDSUers who participated in the visits to Congress included Exec. Vice-Pres. Meyer Meyers of Local 108, and Int'l Rep. Frank Meloni, both of New Jersey; Int'l Rep. Charles Hess and Local 149 Legislative Chairman Harry Ott, both of West Virginia; and Local 1-S Pres. Sam Kovenetsky, District 65 Vice-Pres. Milton Reverby and 'Record' Editor Max Steinbock, all of New York.

Meloni, who has been a member of the New Jersey State Assembly for a number of years, was able to put his political experience and contacts to good use during the stay in Washington.

During the coming weeks, delegations of unionists from many other states will be coming to the capital to press for the wage law improvements. These group visits are being organized by the AFL-CIO Joint Minimum Wage Committee, which is made up of unions that are most vitally concerned with this legislation.

In other developments on the minimum wage campaign front, it was reported that the full Senate Labor Committee, headed by Sen. Lister Hill of Alabama, will meet Feb. 15. The RWDSU's Washington legislative representative,

Kenneth A. Meiklejohn, who also serves as director of the Joint Committee, said that there was a strong possibility that the Senate Committee would act then on its subcommittee's minimum wage proposals.

On the House side of the Capitol, it was announced that the House Labor Committee would begin hearings on minimum wage improvements on March 1. AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany will be the first labor spokesman to appear before the committee, probably on March 3. RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg is also slated to testify on the needs of retail employees for coverage under the federal minimum wage law.

The outlook for extension of coverage appears brighter than at any time during the past five years, labor legislative experts said. Among the hopeful signs they cited were these:

- President Eisenhower included a recommendation that coverage be extended to "several million additional workers in accordance with previous recommendations" in his budget message to Congress. This obviously referred to Administration proposals made last year and denounced by labor as grossly inadequate which would extend coverage to some two million additional workers.
- Sen. Kennedy has said he intends to make minimum wage legislation his top labor issue for 1960.
- House Speaker Sam Rayburn predicted last week that the House will go along with proposals to liberalize the federal minimum wage law this year.

COPE Conferences Listed For Each Area of Nation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The first five in a series of 15 coast-to-coast area conferences of the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education are scheduled for February in Savannah, Ga., Durham, N.C., Nashville, Tenn., Baton Rouge, La., and Dallas, Tex.

The election-year conferences are designed for officers of local unions, local central bodies, trades councils and women's activities departments.

The participation of women in political education and action will be stressed and a portion of the program set aside for union wives.

The conferences will deal with procedures and problems of COPE's program involving education, communication, registration, fund raising, candidate appraisal, campaign strategy, getting out the vote and specific local, district and state problems.

COPE Dir. James L. McDevitt will lead the COPE team attending each conference. The full list of conferences follows:

- Feb. 13-14: DeSoto Hotel, Savannah, Ga., for Georgia and Florida.
- Feb. 16-17: Washington Duke Hotel, Durham, N.C., for North Carolina and South Carolina.
- Feb. 20-21: Andrew Jackson Hotel, Nashville, Tenn., for Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee.
- Feb. 27-28: Bellemont Motor Hotel, Baton Rouge, La., for Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Feb. 29-March 1: Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Tex., for New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

- March 4-5: Somerset Hotel, Boston, Mass., for Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Massachusetts.
- March 7-8: Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa., for New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.
- March 12-13: Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C., for Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia.
- March 19-20: Sheraton-Lincoln Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind., for Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.
- March 22-23: Chase Park Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., for Illinois and Missouri.
- March 27-28: Fontenelle Hotel, Omaha, Neb., for Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.
- March 29-30: Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn., for Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- April 23-24: Cosmopolitan Hotel, Denver, Col., for Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.
- April 27-28: Whitcomb Motor Hotel, San Francisco, Cal., for Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.
- April 30-May 1: Multnomah Hotel, Portland, Ore., for Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

LABOR NEWS ROUNDUP

L-G Injunction Threatens Stork Club Strikers

NEW YORK CITY—After three years of futile efforts to get management of the Stork Club to bargain in good faith, 100 members of the two Hotel & Restaurant Employees locals face the threat that their picketing of one of the gay haunts of cafe society may be halted by the Landrum-Griffin Act.

The National Labor Relations Board has asked U.S. District Court here to issue an injunction barring further picketing by members of Dining Room Employees Local 1 and Chefs, Cooks, Pastry Cooks and Assistants Local 89.

The two unions struck the swank night club Jan. 9, 1957, after owner Sherman Billingsley refused to sign a contract giving them equitable wages, the 40-hour week and job security.

In seeking the injunction, NLRB Gen. Counsel Stuart Rothman charged that the two locals are violating the Landrum-Griffin provision which bans recognition or organizational picketing at the end of a 30-day period, unless the union has petitioned the labor board for an election. He said no such petition has been filed by the union in this case.

Tricky legal maneuvering on the part of Billingsley and his lawyer, Roy M. Cohn—one-time close associate of the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.)—has effectively denied the union recourse to either the NLRB or the New York State Labor Board in this protracted labor dispute.

When the strike began three years ago, the locals filed charges with the SLRB accusing the Stork Club of a long list of unfair labor practices. Six months of hearings followed, during which the Board piled up nearly 2,000 pages of testimony. SLRB Chairman Jay Kramer later pointed out that Billingsley never refuted union charges. Instead, the Stork Club, which earlier had acknowledged the state board's jurisdiction, suddenly shifted its position and contended the SLRB had no authority over the case.

Kramer said Billingsley's change of position came only after "any possible resort by the unions to the NLRB" on all of the unfair labor charges except the continuing refusal to bargain "was barred by the six-month statute of limitations" in the Taft-Hartley Act.

A trial examiner held hearings which stretched out over another year before upholding Billingsley's contention that the NLRB had jurisdiction. The state board concurred in his finding and dismissed the case, leaving the two locals with no recourse to either state or local authorities on the long list of charges against the nightclub.

Exploited on Madison Ave.

NEW YORK (PAI)—Bring out the crying towels, boys, here's another sad, sad story.

A survey conducted by Printers' Ink magazine reveals that 76 per cent of the advertising industry's executives who make over \$25,000 a year are unhappy in their jobs. More than 21 percent of those interviewed blamed their gloom on the belief that they were underpaid.



CONCERT RAISES \$1,000 for Henderson strikers: Washington unionists turned out to hear top American guitarist Charlie Byrd and his trio and contribute to relief of beleaguered Textile Workers at Henderson, N.C. Among concert goers are, l. to r. Rep. Clement W. Millers (D-Cal.) with daughters, John W. Edelman, TWUA representative; and Ben Segal, president of Local 189. Proceeds were over \$1,000.

Hits Employer 'Thieving' On \$1 an Hour Minimum

DETROIT, Mich.—Auto Workers Sec.-Treas. Emil Mazey has urged a Senate Labor subcommittee to turn the glare of publicity on employers who have "stolen more than \$32 million" from their workers' pay envelopes through violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Mazey said Labor Dept. figures show that 102,082 workers were shortchanged \$10.1 million by chisel-ing employers who paid them less than \$1 an hour between January 1958 and June 1959.

During the same period, he said, 199,163 workers were illegally underpaid a total of \$22 million by employers who paid them less than the legal minimum for overtime.

In a letter to Subcommittee Chairman John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.), Mazey voiced the belief that an even greater amount was "stolen from the pay envelopes of the workers by unscrupulous, crooked, racketeering employers."

"Employers should be subpoenaed to appear before your committee under television cameras, radio microphones and the full presence of the press, in exactly the same manner that labor leaders were compelled to testify before the hearings of the McClellan committee," Mazey wrote Kennedy.

Mazey called for revision of the mild penalties provided by the Fair Labor Standards Act, including a possible jail penalty only after a second offense and a maximum jail sentence of six months.

Labor Dept. Survey Shows 18.1 Million in U.S. Unions

WASHINGTON, (PAI)—There were 18.1 million dues-paying members of American trade unions in 1958, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.

The total figure represents a decline of 400,000 members since 1956. However, the proportion of union members to the total labor force remained stable, about one in four. About one out of three non-agricultural workers are union members.

The report stressed that the decline of 400,000 members was "caused largely by the 1957-58 recession."

The 18.1 million figure is not the total claimed by the U.S. unions. Unions which confine their activities to a single employer or to a single locality are not included. Probably more than 500,000 workers are members of such unions.

The statistical breakdown shows that there are 14,880,000 members of 137 unions in the U.S. and Canada affiliated with the AFL-CIO. There are 49 unaffiliated unions with a total membership of 3,088,000.

The survey is contained in the Labor Department's Monthly Labor Review, covering the 186 national and international unions in the United States. These were among the highlights in the survey:

- Approximately 1.2 million of the union members were in Canada.
- A total of 1 million members were employed in Federal, state or local public service.
- About 17 million members are equally divided between manufacturing and non-manufacturing.
- Seven large unions, each with 500,000 or more members, accounted for one out of every three members. These included: Teamsters, UAW, IAM, Steelworkers and Carpenters. The Teamsters are the largest U.S. union.
- About 20 percent of the total were in 143 international unions with 100,000 members or less.
- While membership within the continental U.S. declined slightly since 1956, it went up 65,000 in Canada and 25,000 in Puerto Rico.
- Hawaii is the only state in the union where AFL-CIO affiliates did not outnumber unaffiliated unions.

Pa. Cops Seek Scab-Herder

BRISTOL, Pa. (PAI)—Bloor Schleppey, recruiter of strikebreakers for struck newspapers from coast to coast, is being hunted by police.

He is being sought on charges of violating Pennsylvania's anti-racketeering law, prohibiting importation of strikebreakers. A year's imprisonment and/or a \$1,000 fine faces Schleppey upon conviction.

The warrant for the arrest of Schleppey, who brought in hordes of scab printers to the anti-union Bristol Publishing Co. newspapers (Bristol, Pa.), was sworn by Joseph Radice, special representative of the International Typographical Union and president of the Trenton Typographical Union No. 71.

Schleppey's name has come to light most recently in connection with the strike and lockout involving the two Portland, Ore. dailies, The Journal and The Oregonian. The papers are now being published by scab labor which, according to the unions involved, was shipped into Portland by Schleppey.

Union-Busters Flop Again in Move to Restrict COPE

By HARRY CONN

WASHINGTON, (PAI)—"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

Two of the foremost leaders of the anti-labor cabal in the United States Senate—Barry Goldwater (R. Ariz.) and Carl Curtis (R. Neb.)—who fondly recall the good old days when unions weren't so effective, also believe in the good old sayings, such as the one above.

Last week they tried, once again, to limit the political education activities of the labor movement. It looks like they will have to "try, try again."

It happened during the debate on the Federal Elections Act of 1960 when both Goldwater and Curtis sputtered and fumed because the proposed bill, introduced by Sen. Thomas Hennings (D. Mo.), did not automatically curtail union activity in the political field.

Hennings pointed out that labor is already restricted by the Taft-Hartley Act and the Federal Corrupt Practices Act and actions by the courts. This didn't satisfy Senators Goldwater and Curtis, however. They pointed out that labor political committees, such as COPE, could engage in registration drives, promote get-out-the-vote drives and such, and that dues money could be used for this.

Finally, after consuming close to an hour of this talk, Hennings, in desperation, told the two Repub-

licans that instead of just talking he would be pleased if they would introduce an amendment so that it could be voted up or down. At least this would settle the matter until the two would "try, try again."

Goldwater at first allowed that he didn't have an amendment prepared. A short time later, lo and behold, it was ready. He proposed to place a \$10,000 ceiling on any committee which engages in such activities as "compiling and publishing voting records, political training courses, getting workers registered, paying election day workers, providing automobiles to get voters to the polls, political meetings."

Then the fur started to fly. Sen. Russel Long (D-La.) wanted to know how you could place these restrictions and, at the same time, give unlimited license to newspapers that use the power of their publications to support individual candidates.

Sen. George Aiken (R-Vt.) said he noticed that "every week The New York Times prints the voting records of Members of Congress from Connecticut, New York City and Northern New Jersey. Would that amendment restrict that, in any way?"

Sen. Kenneth Keating (R-N.Y.) said that as far as he could see the amendment could restrict any political committees from spending more than \$10,000. He added: "I suggest it might need some amendment in order to prevent all of us from being eliminated from this body, the Senate, which would be a disaster to the country."

Then Sen. Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) pointed out that Goldwater's plan would limit the Republican and Democratic National Committees to \$10,000 per annum.

The drama came to something of a climax when Sen. Paul Douglas (D-Ill.) rose to exclaim that, word-for-word, Goldwater's amendment was taken from the July 1959 issue of Nation's Business, official publication of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Said Goldwater, caught red-handed: "The Senator is correct. I do not think he would expect to find it in any publication of COPE."

But all this was too much. Curtis tried to come to Goldwater's rescue with a substitute amendment. It was out of order. Goldwater cooperatively withdrew his amendment so that the Curtis substitute would be accepted by the chair.

In effect, it provided that "duly authorized local, state or national committees of national political parties" would be exempted from the \$10,000 limitation.

Curtis soon got in as much hot water as Goldwater, but no one came to his rescue. His proposal was defeated by the Senate.

Before long, though, Curtis, Goldwater or someone else who likes the good old days or good old sayings will "try, try again."

The "clean elections" bill was passed by the Senate—minus the Curtis and Goldwater proposals.

RWDSU Local Wins Vote at Big Office Buildings, 153-98

NEW YORK CITY—Local 670 of the RWDSU is now the bargaining agent for the 272 employees of six Salmon Co. office buildings in midtown Manhattan, including one of the largest in the city, the 60-story tower at 500 Fifth Avenue. The others are at 11 and 55 West 42nd Street, 503 Fifth Avenue and 1576 and 1674 Broadway.

The RWDSU affiliate, the Maintenance and Building Service Union, won an NLRB election Feb. 8 by an overwhelming count among the non-supervisory employees of the six buildings, voting as one over-all unit, it was reported by Business Mgr. Thomas Bagley. The count was 153 for the union and 98 against. Seven

votes were challenged and two ballots were voided.

Negotiations for the initial '670' contract with the Salmon Co. are to begin soon, Bagley said.

Almost 200 of the 272 employees of the six buildings work in 500 Fifth Avenue and 11 West 42nd Street, a 32-story structure known as the Salmon Towers. The workers—elevator operators, porters, charwomen, mechanics, painters, carpenters, electricians, engineers, plumbers—were organized in a drive starting in the Spring of 1959 under the leadership of Local 670 Orgs. William Teaney and Joseph Caliva.

A series of organizing meetings during the drive was climaxed by one several days before the election

at which RWDSU Sec.-Treas. Alvin Heaps spoke. He told the workers of the advantages of membership in Local 670 and described the operation of the union and its democratic direction by the rank and file. Also outlined at the meeting was a program of improvements in wages and working conditions to be sought by the union.

At other meetings, Local 670 Pres. John Finger, Caliva and staff member Marie Leahey pointed out to the employees of the six buildings that their wages were an average of \$10 below prevailing scales, and that they were being denied the normal job security and other benefits which result from organizing into a strong, honest union.

STEADY GROWTH BRINGS '147' TO 3,000 MARK

NEW YORK CITY—When RWDSU Local 147 won a representation election at the Kramer Jewelry Co. last month by a count of 30 to 0, the victory underlined a record of growth that has brought the membership of the Watch and Jewelry Workers Union past the 3,000 mark. Five hundred of that number have been organized in the last two years.

Local 147 Manager Ted Bowman, recalling the beginnings of the union in 1936, reviewed some of the early struggles that have resulted in today's protections for the welfare of the membership.

"In those days, 23 years ago," he said, "the unorganized workers in the watch and jewelry field were meanly exploited. Those were the days of no holidays, no vacations—no benefits whatsoever. And wages were indecently low. If a new worker approached the boss for a job at a lower wage, out went the older worker in the shop!"

A labor union was the only way to stop such abuses and to bring about improvements.

"A half dozen of us began meeting at 6 in the morning before work, and again after work, sometimes up to midnight, to form a union. . . ."

Among this group of pioneers, in addition to Bowman, were Caesar Massa, now a '147' business representative, Morris Borodkin, a union attorney, and Phil Loeffler.

With the arrival of the CIO movement in New York, the small, struggling union of watch and jewelry workers was strengthened.

The Strike of 1939

"Our members began receiving wage increases, job security and other benefits," Bowman continued. "A big turning point was the strike of 1939. The issue was the union shop. We were out for nine weeks—but we won the union shop clause in our contracts."

With the expansion of the membership, Bowman said, the '147' leaders began to understand that for a union to be truly representative of the workers "we had to look out for the more personal—the family side—of their welfare."

That understanding led '147' to become an early participant in the New York CIO Community Services Program. Today, one of its leaders, Massa, is a member of the executive committee of the AFL-CIO Community Services Committee.

Massa cited as one of the union's outstanding services the summer camp program which provides free vacations for the children of its members. Another service of which the union is proud is its Workmen's Compensation committee, headed by Jim Dwight and Herbert Scharke.

Massa pointed out that 147's work in community services has been so effective that even when members get jobs in other industries, they continue to come to the union's office for guidance and assistance. "And we gladly give it to them," he added.

Wage Hikes, Other Gains Mark New '65' Pacts Covering 3,000

NEW YORK CITY—Contract settlements covering 3,000 members in more than 180 shops were concluded by District 65 this month with substantial wage increases and important gains in other areas. Included among the firms involved, all of whose contracts expired in the first week of February, were such major companies as Lerner's,

Miles and A. S. Beck home offices and warehouses.

The contract expirations in the wholesale and warehouse sections of the District were successfully renewed without a major strike, although there were brief stoppages in several smaller shops.

Thus, District 65 has cleared its decks for the crucial battle with the department store giants — Stern's, Bloomingdale's and Gimbel's—where strikes involving nearly 9,000 members are a strong possibility. The Stern's contract—first major test in the stores—expires Feb. 29.

The 900 Lerner's workers won a wage boost of \$3.75 this year and \$2.80 or \$2 plus the cost-of-living rise, whichever is greater, for next year. About 300 workers in heavy duty and skilled jobs won additional amounts, bringing their 1960 increases to \$4.25 and \$6.25 a week. Part of the wage increase was due to a 1% reduction in welfare plan payments, in accordance with a District-wide policy adopted last year.

Leading the union negotiating team was Pres. David Livingston, with Organization Dir. Bill Michelson, Vice-Pres. Frank Brown and General Org. Ben L. Berman.

Two key points in the Lerner settlement were protection for the workers should the plant make its expected move to Secaucus, N. J., from New York City, and retention of a guaranteed employment clause covering employees with service of one year or more in the company. Other improvements are in sick leave, funeral leave and vacations, providing a fourth week off with pay after 25 years' service. Workers are entitled to a three-week vacation after five years on the job.

\$7 for 2 Years at Beck

Members at A.S. Beck won wage boosts averaging \$7 over two years in the warehouse and \$6 in the office. One hour was cut off the office work week, bringing it to 36½ hours, and minimums were raised by \$3 each year for both categories of employees. Protection in the event the company moves was secured here too.

The reduction in hours in the office was the result of the workers exercising an option to take an additional \$1 raise or the cut in hours. This has become a strike issue at Miles Shoes, where the same overall settlement formula was worked out, but where the company last week reneged on its agreement to the option and insisted that the workers take the \$1. Negotiations were under way in an attempt to avert a walkout. Vice-Pres. Al Bernknopf is leading the union committee here, as he did from the beginning of negotiations with the Miles and Beck firms.

In another major shop, the New York Merchandise Co., about 120 workers under the leadership of General Org. Phil Mannheim and Org. Henry Hamilton won a wage increase totaling \$10.50 over 3 years, plus cost-of-living protection. Heavy duty workers got an additional \$1.



RWDSU JOINS DRIVE of New York City Central Labor Council in support of USO. At ceremonies in USO Center Feb. 8, Council presented letter signed by AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany, praising USO. In photo, l. to r., are Caesar Massa of RWDSU Local 147, Int'l Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Bail, Arthur Harkham of N.Y.C. Central Labor Council, William E. Walsh, chairman of USO Committee, Leo Perlis, AFL-CIO Director of Community Services, and Napoleon Massa of RWDSU Local 377.

'585' Members to Receive Improved Health Benefits

NEW YORK CITY—Hospitalization and surgical benefits under the RWDSU Local 585-Stationers' Ass'n Welfare Fund have been increased as of Jan. 1, it was announced by '585' Pres. Bernard W. Freeman and Trustee Herbert M. Markham.

For members, hospitalization benefits were increased from \$16 to \$19 a day for 31 days, and from \$160 to \$190 maximum for miscellaneous charges. Maternity benefits remain at \$160, and the surgical schedule at a maximum of \$300. Also remaining at the same figure for members are disability benefits and life insurance.

A schedule of surgical benefits up to \$150 for members' dependents was provided for the first time, while hospitalization benefits for dependents were improved as follows: from \$12 to \$15 a day for 31 days; and from \$120 to \$150 maximum for miscellaneous charges. Maternity care benefits were increased from \$120 to \$160.

Also provided are allowances for members under the Welfare Fund for eyeglasses and partial dental care.

Booklets carrying the full details on these improvements are being mailed out to Local 585 members.

Answergirls to Elect Brooklyn Chairlady

NEW YORK CITY—Election of a Borough Chairlady by Brooklyn members of RWDSU Local 780, Telephone Answering Service Union, will be held on Feb. 24, it was announced by Sec.-Treas. C Dale Buckius.

Nominations for the office were certified by the union's Nominating Committee after receiving petitions. Nominations required ten members to sign a petition for a member in good standing who has been in the local for at least two years. The term of office is one year.

The election is scheduled to take place by secret ballot at the union's regular meeting on Feb. 24 at union headquarters 5 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn. The meeting will be held in two sessions, at 12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

The Midwest

Contract Talks Open At Penn. Dept. Store After Election Win

ALBUQUERQUE, Pa.—Local 101 of the RWDSU began negotiations for its first contract with the Pittsburgh Mercantile Co. here following an election victory at the department store, Int'l Rep. Ernest Burberg reported. The vote count among the 102 non-supervisory employees was 65 to 32, with four challenges and one absentee.

18c Package In Lancaster, O. At Deeds Dairy

LANCASTER, O.—Improved wages and working conditions have resulted from negotiations for a new contract between RWDSU Local 379 and the Deeds Dairy here, employing 45 workers, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Gene Ingles. Full retroactivity to the old contract expiration date of Nov. 1, 1959, was provided.

Meanwhile, Local 379 has filed a petition for an election among the 12 employees of the Deeds branch in Nelsonville, O.

Base wages for the Lancaster retail route salesmen were increased by \$5 a week, plus a one-half percent boost in commission; and base wages of wholesale salesmen were raised by \$6 a week.

A five-day week began on Feb. 1 for plant employees under terms of the new pact. Each working day is now nine hours to make a 45-hour work week, at the same take-home pay that applied in the old six-day, 48-hour week. Added to this was a 7-cents-an-hour wage increase. The package boosts plant employees' wages approximately 18 cents an hour, Ingles said.

'379' Pension Plan Won

The old company-purchased pension plan was scrapped and the accumulated funds transferred to the Local 379 pension plan with members having full voice in its operation. Grievance procedure was also improved in the new agreement.

Serving on the Lancaster negotiating committee were Chairman Gerald Allen, Eldon Bailor, Donald W. Kane, Leo R. Flowers, Ronald Bowers and Dwight Conrad, assisted by Ingles.

Ingles reported that over 80 percent of the Nelsonville workers have been signed up in Local 379 in the drive headed by Max Jones. "Their unity will enable them to win the forthcoming election and bargain for terms equal to those at the main plant in Lancaster," Ingles said.

Pay Boosts in Ohio At Adams Bakery

PORTSMOUTH, O.—Pay boosts were gained for the employees of the Adams Baking Co. of Portsmouth, O., in a new agreement negotiated with RWDSU Local 21.

The three-year pact calls for a 25-cents-an-hour increase for hourly-paid employees on the following schedule: eight cents the first and second years, and nine in the third. Route salesmen received an increase in base pay of \$8 a week, \$5 of which is to be paid the first year, \$2 the second and \$1 the third.

Hourly-paid employees will be paid time and a half for all time worked on holidays, according to the new pact. Also provided is pay for jury duty. The agreement expires on Nov. 1, 1962.

Serving on the negotiating committee with unit chairman Arthur Kent were Vincent Ferguson, Carl Ferguson, Harold Monk and Walter Workman, assisted by Int'l Rep. Edgar Johnson.

Following certification by the NLRB as the collective bargaining agent of the workers, the union held a meeting Feb. 6 at which proposals were drawn up to be submitted to the store management. Major items in the proposals deal with wage increases, job security and seniority rights, '101' Business Agent Jack Silvers said.

The Pittsburgh Mercantile Co. operates a chain of a half-dozen stores in western Pennsylvania. This town, about 20 miles from Pittsburgh, is a community of 20,000 people dominated by the big Jones & Laughlin steel plant, whose workers form the bulk of the local store's customers.

Majority Signed Quickly

First contact with the employees was made by Frank Lasick of the state AFL-CIO staff. It was quickly followed up by '101' Business Mgr. Howard Fedor, who led the successful organizing drive, in which the majority of the employees signed union cards within three weeks.

Talks were soon begun with the store management, leading to an agreement with the union to hold the election.

Horton Elected President Of '258' in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, O.—Elections at RWDSU Local 258, Medical Supplies Union, brought the following results: John Horton, president; Gilbert Stamper, vice-president; Rosa Baker, financial secretary; Ruth Stephens, recording secretary; Robert Brand, chief steward; and Otto Grischy, sergeant-at-arms. Trustees are Ronald Lubbers, William Weber and Charles R. Keith.



PACT ENDS WALKOUT at G. C. Murphy warehouse in McKeesport, Pa. last month. Signing contract is RWDSU Local 940 Pres. George Van Kirk. Others seated are Edward G. Prociou, director of employee relations for the company, and Elfrieda Sallinger. Standing, William Wesley, Int'l Rep. Ernest Burberg, Stanley Mols and Fred Davis.

'Best Pact in West Virginia' Won by Borden's Dairymen

HUNTINGTON, W. Va.—Workers at the Borden's plant here have set the pace by negotiating a contract that "surpasses by far" any other agreement in the dairy industry in West Virginia, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Edgar Johnson.

Members of RWDSU Local 612, the 140 plant and sales employees in the bargaining unit ratified the two-year pact on Jan. 31, beating the midnight expiration deadline by a few hours.

Following are the gains in pay under the new agreement:

Retail route salesmen working under the point pay system will receive \$3.01—up from \$2.90—with an additional \$3 added to their weekly base pay. Wholesale route salesmen will get a base pay increase of \$4; and ice cream route salesmen, a raise of \$2.

General plant, semi-skilled and skilled workers will get increases of seven cents for the first year and five cents for the second; garage, transport and other maintenance employees, nine cents the first year and seven cents the second.

All work on Sundays will be paid at

the rate of time and one half, under the new terms.

Added to the agreement was plant-wide seniority in case of extreme cut-back in the plant labor force, which applies to employees with three or more years' service. The probationary period for hourly-paid employees was lowered from 45 to 30 days. Route salesmen will get two paid days off for each 12 days worked.

Among many other changes, the new agreement also calls for an additional company contribution of \$2 per month into the welfare fund covering hospitalization, sickness and accident insurance.

Serving on the union negotiating team, along with the unit chairman, Raymond Drown, were: Claude Ails, Walter Glenn, Paul Jeffrey, Everett Mounts, John Hite, Jack Williams, Lloyd Duncan, Basil Dailey and Edsel Rollyson, assisted by Johnson.

W. Va. Local Burns Hdqs. Mortgage



Up in flames goes mortgage on Local 149 building in Glen Dale, W. Va. Holding burning document is Harry Ott. Others above, l. to r., contractor Elmer Crowe, Joe Wharry, F. M. Kaemmerling, Anita Riggie.

GLEN DALE, W. Va.—It was mortgage-burning day at RWDSU Local 149 on Jan. 16. The Toy Workers Union building, completed in 1957, has been a valuable asset to the membership, serving as administrative headquarters, meeting hall and social center. Final payment of \$6,000 would make the building the official property of

Local 149. On Jan. 16, union officers, the building contractor, trustees and building committee members gathered at headquarters for the important ceremony. After the union's check for the \$6,000 was handed over to contractor Elmer Crowe, the mortgage was burned.

12-Hr. Strike At Wholesaler Won in B'ham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—It took just 12 hours of striking to convince the management of the Merchants Cigar & Candy Co., a wholesale firm, that its 45 employees deserved more than double the measly raise it had offered them.

After more than three months of renewal negotiations with RWDSU Local 436, the top company wage offer remained at three cents an hour. Their patience exhausted, the workers set a deadline of Feb. 5, and with no change in the offer by midnight, they walked out en masse at that time.

By noon that day, the company, located in downtown Birmingham, had had enough of the picketing, and capitulated. The strike was settled forthwith with a seven cents an hour wage increase. The language of the contract was also improved.

The short strike was led by Alabama RWDSU Council Org. Lester Bettice.

33c for 3 Years Gained in Miami At Electric Co.

MIAMI, Fla.—Wage boosts totaling 33 cents an hour for employees of the Consolidated Electric Supply, Inc., were negotiated by the RWDSU in a new agreement covering a 3-year period, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Harry Bush. The effective dates of the increases are Jan. 15, 1960, and the same date in the two following years.

The raises will boost the minimum starting rate from the former \$1.25 per hour to a high of \$1.58 in 1962, going up to \$1.63 after six months of employment and \$1.66 after one year. Minimum for shipping and receiving and for pricing clerks is \$1.78 an hour.

The new contract also provides for an additional one half-day paid holiday—New Year's Eve—making a total of seven paid holidays a year. Other benefits added are three days paid funeral leave and jury duty leave.

The Consolidated employees are covered by the Southeastern RWDSU-Industry Health & Welfare Plan, to which the employer pays \$3.50 per week for each worker.

The union was represented in negotiations by Charles Burgess and Wilbur E. Blancke, assisted by Bush and Int'l Rep. Danny Klein. Employer spokesmen were Fred Braverman and Gene Stark.

Await Order Setting Election Date For A&P Stores in Knoxville, Tenn.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—An order from the headquarters of the National Labor Relations Board setting the date for a representation election among employees of A&P stores in this area is expected "momentarily."

The voting will be the culmination of a long battle by the RWDSU against the giant supermarket chain here. Last summer the NLRB found the company guilty of anti-union restraint and coercion of its employees and ordered the new election, setting aside the results of a vote in April, 1958 at nine branches in Knoxville, Aloca and Oak Ridge.



Looking over new pact at Barber Pure Milk Co. in Birmingham are RWDSU Local 201-A negotiating committee members. Seated is A. W. Brasher. Standing, left to right, are: J. L. Kimbrough, Clarence "Tiny" Gamble, Robert Clem, '201-A' Sec. C. A. Brock, Neil Walter and D. W. Nunnally.

"What will the year 1960 mean for the employees of A&P, you in particular?" RWDSU Int'l Rep. Ed Rosenhahn writes in the current A&P Employees Newsletter, referring to the forthcoming election.

"As an employee of A&P you have two paths you can take which will affect you and your job. One is the easy road. It is the road you have been traveling. This road gives management the sole right to say how much you are worth, who shall be given any job, who shall be fired or laid off, who shall work where or when and for how long. In fact, on this road, you give management a blank check to do anything that a whim may dictate.

"The other road you may take in 1960 may be a little rougher to travel at the beginning, but the rewards reaped farther down the road far outweigh anything you may endure at the start. This is the union road. On this road you and your fellow A&P employees, by working together, bargain with management for a union contract that will give you not only greater earnings but guaranteed minimum earnings, genuine job security, promotion by seniority and ability, freedom from unjust discharge and unfair layoff. This all would mean the elimination of bootlicking or friendship as the only hope of gaining promotion or advancement. This union road is traveled by 16 million American working people."

135 Gain 8c at Barber Milk in Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A wage increase of eight cents an hour across the board for the 135 employees of the Barber Pure Milk Co. branch here was won in a new RWDSU Local 201-A contract, it was reported by Ass't Area Dir. Frank Parker.

Other gains in the 22-month agreement include a third week's paid vacation after 15 years' service. Since most of the employees have worked at the Barber plant for at least that length of time, three-week vacations will now be widely enjoyed there.

Another improvement in the pact is additional uniform allowance by the company.

Int'l Rep. Bill Langston, '201-A' Pres.

Willard Waldroup and Sec. C. A. Brock led a negotiating team of stewards from each plant department, including J. L. Kimbrough, Clarence "Tiny" Gamble, Robert Clem, Neil Walter, D. W. Nunnally and A. W. Brasher.

The Barber branch here is the largest wholesale milk distributor in the state. The three other branches of the company in Alabama, located in Mobile, Montgomery and the retail outlet in

Birmingham (known as White's Dairy), are all under contract to the RWDSU.

Arkansas AFL-CIO Opens Minimum Wage Drive

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Arkansas labor has opened a drive to secure 50,000 signatures on an initiative petition for a state minimum wage law to put the issue to referendum in the November election.



STUDYING NEW PACT at W. T. Grant variety store in Birmingham are members of negotiating committee, shown with RWDSU Int'l Rep. Bill Langston. Sitting is Enola Sweeten, local president. Standing, l. to r.: Mittele Daniels, Ruby McGee, Lena Kendricks and Elsie Barker.



21-CENT HOURLY RAISE. Committee that negotiated raise of 21 cents for 3 years at Union Envelope Co. in Birmingham included Shop Chairman Eva Meyers, l. and Edna Parsons, r., flanking Alabama RWDSU Council Org. Lester Bettice. Not shown is committee member Lois Shelmitt.

Canada

After Silverwood Victory: Many Sign Up in '440'

Strike Win Spurs Organizing in Lindsay, Ont.

LINDSAY, Ont.—The recent victorious strike at Silverwood's Dairy here, in addition to winning gains for its 32 workers, has yielded important by-products in organization of employees of other companies. Int'l Rep. Walter Kensit reported that as a result of the strike victory—which he said seemed to bring the town "out of its shell"—many unorganized workers in garages, bottling plants and grocery stores in the area have shown a strong interest in the advantages of trade unionism.

The RWDSU therefore launched a drive as soon as the Silverwood's strike ended on Jan. 16, and the results so far have been notable, involving a potential total of more than 100 new RWDSU members in the area.

Kensit reported that Local 440 has already applied for certifications at the Trent Valley Bakery with 20 employees signed; and at three garages—Fee, Mowbray and Race Motors—with a total of 60 employees. Other organizing targets are the Coca Cola bottling depot and the Steinburg Grocery chain store.

Kensit said that garage workers in Lindsay are among the lowest paid in town, even though they are, for the most part, guild labor. He pointed out that mechanics in Toronto, for instance, are paid \$2 an hour while garage workers in Lindsay average only \$1.45.

"Anybody who sells anything to the public in service, retail, or wholesale, is our business," Kensit told the local newspapers, which carried news of the RWDSU organizing drive. He added that there are smaller groups in Peterborough—25 miles away—who want to be organ-

ized. "We will give them the opportunity," he said.

Assisting Kensit in the drive are

George Playfoot, treasurer of the Lindsay Division of Local 440, and Alex McCall of the Peterboro area of the local.

Canadian Labor Lashes Back At Attacks by Business

OTTAWA, Ont. (PAI)—Canadian labor, which has been under heavy attack just as American labor has been in the United States, is lashing back vigorously.

Each year the Canadian Labor Congress makes legislative recommendations to the Canadian Government as do other groups in the country. This year, in addition to making its recommendations, the CLC struck back at the Canadian Manufacturers Association and Chamber of Commerce, which have been attacking the union movement as corrupt and irresponsible.

"This we challenge," the CLC declared. "We see in these efforts a determination to undermine the labor movement. Unions play an important and essential role . . . They have added strength to the democratic structure, have expanded the area of freedom within our political democracy and have destroyed communism and fascism as an effective force in Canada."

Defending the right to strike, the CLC asserted that without unions and collective bargaining, "industry is a dictatorship of the employer." The CLC charged that Canadian industry and business want to enact legislation that would enable them to sue unions every time an employer suffered a loss as a result of union action, such as a strike.

The CLC pointed out that corporations exist to make money while unions "exist to protect and bargain for their members."

13c Increase Won in Sask. At Sinclair's

REGINA, Sask.—Some 60 employees of four branches of J. M. Sinclair, Ltd., wholesale grocers, won wage increases of 13 cents an hour and other improvements in a new contract negotiated by RWDSU locals, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Walter Smishek.

The branches and the locals involved are in Regina, No. 454; Moose Jaw, 455; Estevan, 635; and Swift Current, 950. It was agreed to enter into one master contract covering the four Sinclair branches. Previously, a separate agreement was negotiated for each branch.

In addition to the wage increase, the new 25-month pact provides for an increase of the group life insurance from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for all employees. Half the cost of the premium is to be paid by the company and half by the employees. An employee also has the option of buying an additional \$3,000 insurance.

Pension Plan Due 1961

The agreement calls for establishment of a pension plan by June 1, 1961, with the company required to contribute the equivalent of not less than 5% of the payroll into a pension fund.

It was also stipulated in the new pact that when the company's mechanized warehouse now under construction is completed, no employee will be displaced as a result, but will be integrated into the new operation. The new warehouse will be run on a shift basis, and employees on the afternoon shift will be paid an additional four cents per hour premium, and those on the night shift an additional eight cents per hour.

Representing the union in negotiations was a committee composed of L. Munshaw, Harry Perkin, Dan Chipeur and Ken Boa, assisted by Smishek.

200 Win Raises, Pensions at Sask. Bakeries

REGINA, Sask.—Major wage and welfare gains were won recently in new contracts between four RWDSU locals and two large baking companies in this area, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Walter Smishek. Affected by the settlements are a total of 200 employees of the McGavin Bakeries, Ltd., and Canadian Bakeries, Ltd., members of Locals 537 in Saskatoon, 496 in Prince Albert, 544 in North Battleford and 950 in Swift Current.

The new agreement provides for wage increases of 4½% as of 1959 retroactive to Sept. 10 of that year; and another 4½% boost in 1960 for plant and office employees. Representing about \$3.25 raises for each year, this will bring the lowest wage in 1960 to \$66.05 a week, with pay ranging up to \$90.80.

Salesmen received \$3 increases for each year in basic and guaranteed wages, bringing the new minimum for 1960 up to \$74.

A feature of the new agreement is the establishment of a trusted pension plan

to be administered jointly by the companies and the union. Under its terms, the employers will pay the full cost of

Vacation 'Bank'

Consecutive seven-week vacations are possible for the McGavin and Canadian Bakery employees under the new agreement negotiated by the RWDSU. Employees entitled to three weeks' annual vacation after five years have the choice of "banking" one week each year for a period of up to four years. Thus, every fourth year they will be permitted to take seven consecutive weeks of vacation with pay.

the plan, contributing \$4 a week per employee into the fund. Benefits will be \$60 a month for employees with 15 years service, increasing \$4 a month for each additional year of service to a maximum of \$100 after 25 years service.

The new contract also provides for an improvement in the dues checkoff and in the grievance procedure clause which was amended to permit more orderly handling in processing grievances of workers.

The union was represented in negotiations by a committee consisting of George Kriskhke, Ben Ramsay, Fred Hopkins, Max Higbee, Peter Friesen, Steve Risula and Tony Nadeau, assisted by Smishek.

Job Rights of 15 Protected in Sale

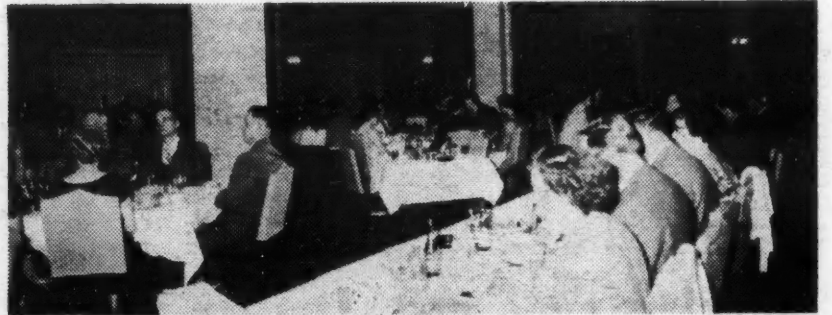
VANCOUVER, B.C.—Fifteen former employees of the tea and coffee division of the Hudson's Bay Co., members of RWDSU Local 580, are now working for another employer, J. Lyons & Co., Ltd.

The sale of the division to Lyons was effective Feb. 8. It guarantees the retention by the new owner of all employees with full seniority and of all conditions called for by the '580' contract.

The present certification covering the tobacco and confectionery division will automatically be amended to cover the Lyons firm. Present employees in that division will continue to be employed by Hudson's Bay and will not be affected by the sale.



At RWDSU Local 1015 annual banquet, l. to r.: Int'l Rep. John Lynk, '1015' Pres. Wilfred Marshall, Mrs. Don Nicholson, MLA Michael MacDonald, Mrs. Marshall. At right, overall view of banquet in New Glasgow, N.S. last month.



Nova Scotia CCF Leader Lauds Union Wives

NEW GLASGOW, N.S.—The part that wives and women in general have played in the growth of the labor movement was lauded by Michael MacDonald, CCF leader and member of the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, speaking at the annual banquet of RWDSU Local 1015 last month.

Noting the large number of members' wives and women members of the union present in the big dining room of the Norfolk Hotel here, MacDonald paid tribute to them and referred to "the great role wives have taken in the labor movement in the province, in Canada and the North American continent."

He urged the wives of 1015ers to maintain their interest in the comparatively young RWDSU local here.

The union's secretary-treasurer, John L. MacLean, also extended a special welcome to the wives for being "solidly behind their husbands in the union." He said:

"It shows you realize that the success of your husbands' union determines to a large measure the welfare of your families." For unions, he added, are "dedicated to the task of eliminating poverty, disease and ignorance and bringing security and peace."

MacDonald said that "anyone who is a member of the trade union movement must feel that, as an individual, he or she is making a contribution to the welfare of humanity."

The legislator declared that the labor movement had made "great strides" in Pictou County over the years and that Local 1015 had contributed to that development. MacLean noted that though the local had had difficult beginnings, it is now "solidly on its feet," with the help of other labor unions in the county.

Local 1015 Pres. Wilfred Marshall was chairman of the banquet.

PRICES

feature Section

Nation's Biggest City Near Lowest In Wages, Among Highest In Prices

By MAX STEINBOCK

New York, New York, it's a wonderful town!

New York is a city where you can buy a two-bedroom cooperative apartment for \$50,000 and up, a used Rolls Royce at \$14,750, a dinner for four at any one of a dozen restaurants which will set you back \$200, a diamond bracelet at \$100,000 or a full beauty treatment for your poodle at \$25 or more. And those are only a few of a thousand similar ways to spend money flamboyantly in the nation's biggest city.

New York is also a city where the average factory wage is \$79.22 a week. This puts New York in nineteenth place among the 20 U.S. cities with factory-worker populations of more than 100,000.

Against this background of low wages, the remarkable variety of luxury goods available to New Yorkers sounds an ironic note. Far from being able to afford a Rolls Royce or a luxury apartment, the average New York factory worker does not even earn enough to qualify—in many instances—for "middle income" public housing. With the average rental of a four room apartment in these tax-supported apartment projects fixed at around \$80, a factory worker with take-home pay of about \$70 just doesn't meet the minimum requirements.

A leading welfare agency, the Community Council of Greater New York, recently calculated its budget for a family of four—father, mother, a boy of 13 and a girl of 8—at \$93.22 a week. For a family with three children, the budget goes to \$111.47 a week. This represents an increase of 1.3% during the year of 1959 and an increase of 11.5% since October 1954.

Despite the fact that this budget is beyond the means of a substantial proportion of the city's workers, it provides only the bare necessities. For example, the allowance for rent and heat is \$14.56 a week or about \$63 a month—substantially less than hundreds of thousands of families pay for rent even in sub-standard dwellings. The food allowance for the family of four is \$30.15 a week: food at home is \$25.70; lunches at work for the wage earner, \$4.25; and Vitamin D supplement, 20 cents.

For those who know New York City food prices, the Vitamin D supplement is a real necessity to make up for the inadequate diet that \$25.70 a week can buy!

The budget allows only \$1.50 a week for transportation to work. If the wage earner lives in a two-fare zone, as hundreds of thousands of New York City residents do, this amount must be doubled. An additional \$1.50 would presumably have to come out of the \$5.60 a week which is all the budget permits for "recreation, education, communications and tobacco."

The worst aspect of the wage-price situation in New York City is that the metropolis is steadily losing ground as compared with other cities. According to federal figures, the average pay check in New York went up 34.6% in the period from 1949 to 1958. In Pittsburgh, the rise was 68.1%, while in Atlanta it was 66.4%.

Not only Atlanta, but many other Southern cities showed average wages substantially higher than New York's \$79.22. Among these were Baton Rouge, with an average wage of \$109.34; Fort Worth with \$98.01; Houston with \$97.62; Birmingham with \$91.80, and Louisville with \$90.40.

When New York's wages are translated into buying power, the improvement since 1949 is a very minor one compared with other cities. Using the purchasing power of the 1949 dollar as a yardstick, the federal study shows that average factory earnings here grew by only \$7.58 a week in the years from 1949 to 1958. This contrasted with a rise in "real wages" of \$22.42 in Pittsburgh, \$18.30 in Los Angeles, \$17.20 in Minneapolis and \$16.80 in Atlanta.

Some Workers Lost Ground Since 1949

According to this yardstick, some New York workers actually lost ground in the period since 1949. Workers in the children's wear industry suffered a \$5.45 loss in weekly buying power. In the women's coat and suit industry, workers lost \$4.90 a week. Millinery workers, whose wages were increased by \$12.98, wound up with a net loss of 88 cents a week in terms of what they could buy.

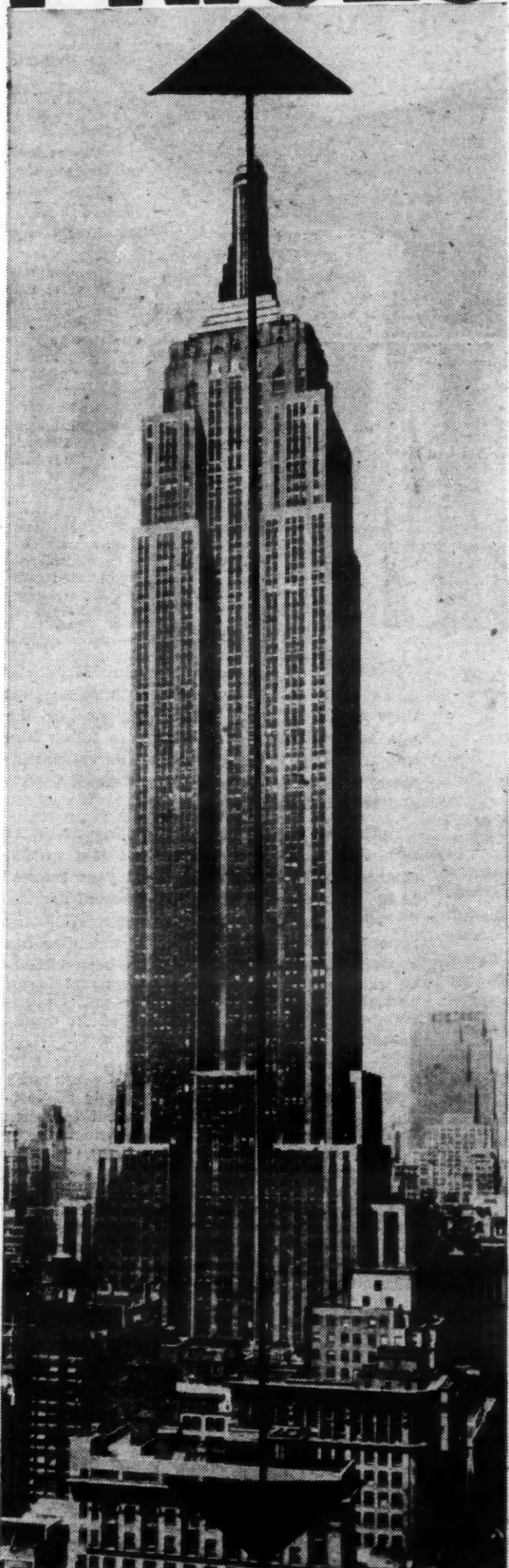
While the New York picture is a bleak one in terms of average factory wages, it is even worse when specific industries are considered. The women's underwear industry pays average wages of \$55.25 a week. The toy and sporting goods industry has an average weekly wage of \$60.03. The costume jewelry industry pays \$64.84.

It is no accident that these low-paying industries include many unorganized shops and employ a high proportion of Negroes and Puerto Ricans. The New York Times reported some months ago that spokesmen for minority groups "have estimated that the average Negro's income is one-third below that of whites and that the spread for Puerto Ricans is even greater."

Leading city officials, anxious to portray New York in the best possible light, have sought to minimize the fact that New York is a low-wage town. They point out that in such industries as apparel, printing and construction, average wages rank comparatively high. But the fact is that these are well-organized industries where unions have been able to buck the trend toward lower wages that has put New York in nineteenth place. And even in these industries, a recent study shows that some 60,000 to 80,000 jobs will be lost during the next 20 years to more competitive sections of the country.

There is no easy answer to the problem of low wages and high prices in New York City, but there is even less basis for complacency. New York may have the world's most spectacular skyline, but it also has deep, festering problems of poor living conditions, of slums, of juvenile delinquency, and of a population whose vast majority cannot enjoy even a fraction of the riches they see in store windows.

It is for these reasons that RWDSU members, like other unionists, are striving to win enactment of improvements in federal and state minimum wage legislation. A decent minimum wage for all workers will not only help to halt the movement of industry to low-wage areas, but will also bolster labor's efforts to win a constantly improving standard of living. Only when those efforts succeed will New York truly be a wonderful town.



WAGES



JOHN L. LEWIS

Last month an era ended when John L. Lewis, one of the most dynamic figures in all of labor history, stepped down from the presidency of the United Mine Workers, a post he had held for 40 years. With his retirement, there departed from active leadership in the labor movement a man who, despite all of the controversy that has raged about him during his long and stormy career, is assured of an important place in American history.

John L. Lewis was born to the mines. His father and grandfather before him were Welsh coal miners, and he himself quit school in the seventh grade to drive mules in the passages of mines deep under the ground. His lack of formal schooling did not prevent him from developing great oratorical skill and a majestic manner that made his every pronouncement front-page copy.

Plunging into union activity at an early age, Lewis became president of the Mine Workers in 1919, when he was only 39 years old. While his union then numbered three times its present membership of 220,000, the conditions under which miners worked made their jobs among the worst in the country. Miners earned \$2.50 to \$3 a day for hard, dangerous labor. Today, while the number of jobs in the industry has shrunk by two-thirds, miners earn a basic daily wage of \$24.50, are protected by union-won safety rules and enjoy many health, welfare and pension benefits that were undreamed-of 40 years ago.

This big change in wages and working conditions came about, in great measure, as a result of Lewis' leadership. Particularly during the period since World War II, when the most dramatic improvements took place, Lewis agreed to technological changes even when these meant there would be fewer jobs in the mines—provided the working miners got a share of the resultant savings in the form of higher wages and better working conditions. Lewis actually joined hands with the mine owners in increasing efficiency in the mines, and thus strengthening the coal industry in its competition with natural gas and oil.

Historic Role as CIO Head

The actions for which Lewis will be best remembered are those he took as leader of the unions which formed the Congress of Industrial Organizations. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal administration took office in

Labor Titan Retires As President of Mine Workers Union

1933, one of the first major efforts it undertook to lift the nation out of the great depression was passage of the National Industrial Recovery Act. Part of this law was the famous section 7 (a), which was hailed by labor as its Magna Carta, guaranteeing "that employees shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing."

Lewis and other leaders of industrial unions in the AFL recognized this as a great opportunity to organize the millions of unorganized industrial workers in steel, auto, rubber, textile and other industries. But they ran head-on into stubborn, unyielding opposition from the old-line craft unions of the AFL.

Growing bitterness between the two groups erupted into fistcuffs at the 1935 AFL convention, when John L. Lewis traded punches with Carpenters' Union President William M. Hutcheson. Immediately after that convention Lewis took the lead in forming the Committee for Industrial Organization, whose avowed purpose was to "encourage and promote" the organization of the unorganized and the establishment of collective bargaining in the mass-production industries.

Hectic days followed, which saw the AFL order the Committee to dissolve. Lewis, as Committee spokesman, refused. The AFL thereupon suspended the CIO unions at its 1936 convention.

While these struggles were going on inside the house of labor, Lewis was leading the first great onslaught against the giant auto and steel industries. A wave of sitdown strikes began, the most famous being the one which brought the UAW its first contract with General Motors. Throughout 1937, hundreds of thousands of workers flocked into the CIO. New unions, including the RWDSU, were chartered. A tidal wave of excitement lifted workers out of the doldrums in which they had been submerged since the depression began. Millions looked to John L. Lewis as to a heroic liberator who would lead them out of slavery.

But a few short years later, in 1940, many of Lewis' most ardent followers were to turn their backs on him. Their allegiance to him was not enough to enable them to follow him into the camp of the Republican Party—particularly when it meant supporting Wendell Willkie and repudiating Roosevelt.

Lewis and FDR had had a falling-out some time earlier when the President had quoted Shakespeare's "a plague on both your houses" as his comment on a labor-management dispute. To which Lewis replied, in characteristically rotund phrases: "It ill behooves one who has supped at labor's table and who has been sheltered in labor's house to curse with equal fervor and fine impartiality both labor and its adversaries when they become locked in deadly embrace."

Backs Willkie, Quits CIO

When the CIO did not back Lewis in supporting Willkie, he carried out his threat to resign as CIO president. Some time later, he took the Mine Workers out of the CIO entirely. In 1946, they rejoined the AFL, but the new affiliation did not last long. At the 1947 convention of the AFL, Lewis, angered by actions of the federation, sent a five-word, hand-written note up to the platform where William Green was presiding. The note read: "Green, AFL, we disaffiliate. Lewis."

In the years since then, the Mine Workers have remained independent. But Lewis has not refrained from caustic comment on labor leaders, on government officials and on employers who dared to oppose his views.

The sharpness of Lewis' tongue, matched by a majestic, *basso profundo* delivery, have given pause to many opponents who contemplated tangling with John L. As a result, he has been given kid-gloves treatment whenever he has been called before a Congressional committee. Wherever he has spoken, his words have meant front-page copy for the reporters who covered the leonine Lewis.

Now that he has stepped down from active leadership of his union, it is believed that his successor as UMW president, Tom Kennedy, may lead the miners back into the AFL-CIO. But while this would be a decided gain for the labor movement, there can be no doubt that the labor scene will be the poorer for the absence of the bushy-browed titan whose booming voice has been raised so many times on behalf of the working people of America.



More Members Reply to Anti-Union Reader's Views

The Jan. 17 issue of *The Record* carried a letter from a 24-year-old reader, Steven Harwin, which expressed an ultraconservative viewpoint on unions and everything that unions seek to accomplish. Mr. Harwin also opposed social security, unemployment insurance, wage increases, income taxes, minimum wages and just about everything else that labor supports.

The greatest flood of mail *The Record* has ever received arrived in response to Mr. Harwin's letter. All but two, which are reprinted below, disagreed with him. We regret that limitations of space prevent us from running all the pro-union, anti-Harwin letters we have received. For additional letters to the editor on different subjects, see Page 12.

To the Editor:

Young Harwin is so very typical of most youngsters who, when entering college or even high school, seem to think that they have found the answers to economic and/or social problems—and how they love to shout it from rooftops.

Of course, he is too young to have "tasted" the hardships and insecurity of working in a shop, store or factory and putting up with an employer's abuse.

And if he had a family, what a dreadful life he'd lead, never knowing when his employer would tell him one day, "Sorry, but your services are no longer needed." And this will not be because Harwin isn't worth the wages, but because another non-union man will do his work at half his wages.

No \$50,000 or \$100,000-a-year presidents had any "ideas that made jobs for others." Rather the reverse is true. The "others" made it possible for large earnings, and the presidents help themselves to them.

AL SILVER
New York City

To the Editor:

In reply to Mr. Steven Harwin's letter in *The Record* on Jan. 17, I beg to inform the gentleman that God created the world and all its minerals for the use of all His people.

Therefore, all steel, copper, coal, zinc, etc., deposits are the property of all the people. All early discoveries, inventions, mechanical equipments, etc., were made to assist people to produce their necessities of life.

Later on big industrial enterprises came into being, and the mines, factories, and fields became the property of big businessmen who made enormous profits. The industrial union was born to protect the welfare of the common man.

The union is the bargaining unit for all honest men on God's earth working for a living. We want all the people to share in the prosperity of our country, with better living conditions. What's wrong with that?

SAMUEL KANTOR
Brooklyn, New York

To the Editor:

I will try to answer Mr. Steven Harwin in the best way that I can—by trying to point out what the labor unions do for working people.

The workers could not get along without the labor unions—it would be like doing away with all the law enforcement agencies and turning everything over to the mobs. It sure would not be safe for anyone.

The way I see it, the labor unions have made small business larger and big business big. When the worker gets a raise in wages it makes the employer improve his product and efficiency to make more money to pay the worker.

The labor unions have done more to bring about the high standard of living in this country than any other organization, and I am sure that the labor unions will strive to keep it that way!

ALFRED G. FARMER,
Huntington, W. Va.

Dear Stephen:

No one could be so extreme in his views without some degree of sincerity, so let us examine your ideas and see if they are correct.

You are 24 years old, so you were born around 1936. At that time President D. Roosevelt had served his first term. He had begun the rescue of our country from the worst depression we had ever seen. Ask your Mom and Dad about it. They will remember.

Prior to that time workers were subject to the application of your ideas. A company paid its workers "what they were worth to them"—and that was as little as they could. Men and women worked 12 to 14 hours a day producing goods they could not afford to buy. When the goods piled up these workers were laid off, thus increasing the number of people who could not buy. Then came the depression.

About the time that you were born I took a civil service examination for subway attendant—this is the fellow who sweeps the platform and cleans the toilets. Do you know who were among the candidates for that \$1,200 per year job? College graduates like you, and lawyers—I know, I spoke with four of them.

About the time you were born, labor received its Magna Carta—the Wagner Act. This act recognized the right of labor to organize and to bargain collectively for a fair share of the things they produced. Believe it or not Steve, things began to improve; ask Dad.

Ask him to compare today, the time of strong Unions, with the year you were born—and ask him which is better.

Today with over 65,000,000 people at work and receiving the salaries most of them were able to bargain for, our economy is experiencing one of several booms. Do you want us to return to the days of your birth?

Remember, Steven, whatever you are selling, be it a locomotive or apples on the corner—you will have lean days unless the masses have a big buying power.

I think you should reverse the field and start carrying the ball in the other direction. The labor movement needs alert, educated and SINCERE men. It is conceivable that you could be one of them.

NOEL SPAULDING
New York City

To the Editor:

As a union member for over twenty years, I feel qualified to answer the letter by Steven Harwin printed in *The Record* of Jan. 17.

I don't think he is qualified at age 24, to write a letter of this type. Furthermore, the little education and reading of some good newspapers does not convince me that he knows what he is writing about. I would like to know, what are the good newspapers he is reading? How many of the newspapers are pro-labor? The contents of the letter show that Steven Harwin lacks experience in practical human relations. He is misguided by an urge to make good in this business of rabble rousing. That is what I call his letter.

In the first place, everybody in this country has the right to organize peacefully. The laboring man in trying to organize into unions for his protection against greedy employers and inhuman conditions had an uphill fight. However, unions were organized and the improvements to the workers were tremendous. In fact, through the unions gaining improved conditions for their members the non-union members gained also. This is a fact not conceded by non-union members but it's true.

The employer also has the right to organize. You have the Manufacturers Association, the Retailers, the Shipping Association, the Contractors Association and many others banded together in their own fields for their own protection. Each has a spokesman the same as the unions have their business agents.

Does the writer know about lobbying? Who spends the most money for lobbying? Of course Big Business. Does Mr. Harwin know the tremendous amount of pressure put on Congress by business to pass anti-labor legislation? Why shouldn't unions look out for their members' interests? The good that unions have done far outweighs the gripes stated in Steve Harwin's letter.

IRVING ROSENKRANZ
Brooklyn, New York

To the Editor:

As a regular reader of *The Record*, there are many items that I digest very carefully. Steven Harwin's letter was one such item.

From his letter to *The Record* of Jan. 17, I gathered he is both very young and very naive.

Before he was born, and before unions really came into their own, there was what is known as sweatshops, gross and general exploitation of labor throughout the country.

Unions were born of necessity—that is to say, employees joined together to voice their protests against the unfair conditions imposed on them. There was no choice of jobs as you know it today.

I was one of those workers I speak of.

It would give me pleasure to meet with Mr. Harwin personally, and conduct him on a tour of what I believe is an honest labor union and second to none, District 65 of the RWDSU.

ED FOGELSON
New York City

To the Editor:

Steven Harwin's letter in *The Record* shows that while he may be a college graduate, he is very ignorant about the benefits of unionism.

Experience is the best teacher. I worked for Publix Shirt Corp., Empire State Bldg., when Mr. J. T. O'Connell, who is now Secretary of Labor Mitchell's aide, was personnel manager. I and another man worked in the Publix sample department, in a storage room without air vents or windows—just walls and the door.

We had to quit because they refused to ventilate the place. Getting no raises and being overworked was bad enough—but no air? Oh boy!

I am now in a union shop with plenty of air, good working conditions, and a living wage.

You are only 24, Steve. You have lots to learn. Learn about the American Labor Movement and what it did and is doing to the sweatshops and other management evils.

Russia is bad enough. But in America, we expect fair play and justice! Thanks to unionism we are getting them!

MARX COHEN
Brooklyn, New York

Two Who Agree With Steven Harwin

To the Editor:

I read the letter in your paper from the "rugged young individualist" and think he is right. People today want more and more money for less work and quality, as evidenced by the products put on the market. Many people today are getting paid what they aren't worth, while teachers and educators who are doing far more important jobs are getting left out by greedy money mongers who worship the green god. Once some workers get a raise they still aren't satisfied and want more. They think because there is a lot of money floating around that they are entitled to some of it. When really they aren't entitled to anything except what they earn honestly.

Today people have no minds of their own and swallow anything they see or hear. All they need is a fuhrer to lead them around like spineless pawns. They just want to sit back and absorb the high standard of living for nothing. Many people have an opportunity for advancement but are too lazy and don't care.

As for me, I'll never join a union as long as I live. I'll think over and work out my own problems.

B. SMITH,
New Orleans, La.

To the Editor:

I want to thank you for publishing the letter of Steven Harwin in the Jan. 17 edition of *The Record*. Seldom have I found such interesting reading in *The Record*. I am proud there are still many young men in this country who know the truth, and are not afraid to let it be known. I'm sure there are many of your readers who agree with Mr. Harwin and I'm certainly proud to be one of them.

W. A. McGEE
McCool, Miss

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Asks Special Housing, Forand Bill for Aged

To the Editor:

Have just finished reading, on page 2 of *The Record* (Jan. 17 issue) your very interesting and stimulating article on a proposed legislative program for 1960 offered by our AFL-CIO leaders at their conference with U.S. senators and representatives last week.

It made me feel good! Also, being a senior citizen, I was especially intrigued by points 4 (Forand Bill) and 7 (to provide special housing for elderly).

I'm proud my union has brought these points before Congress. It's time that something was done for us. Cooping us up in the average housing projects is tough on us, because we can't take being pushed and shoved by stronger young ones. In a project with younger tenants, older ones can't compete with them, as most younger folk have no respect for their elders.

We who have given our longest, youngest and best years to our country, family and community, deserve a "place in the sun" in our twilight years from our government. We are expected and compelled to pay high prices for our food, rent, clothing, medical expenses, etc. Why? Our pensions were not raised! We must eke out a bare existence, can't afford the essential foods we are told are vital to decent living.

These housing projects, especially for the elderly, must be rented at low rates within a pensioner's income. Better yet, raise pensioners' pittance! As senior citizens we just need plain (not fancy) living quarters, with 1 or 2 room apartments. With laundromat, library, and recreation room, this special project for elderly could combine residences and senior citizens community center, thereby saving more money.

If the Forand Bill would be put through by the venerable senators and representatives, we could get medical aid promptly. I and many other senior citizens can't afford doctors or to get prescriptions filled at high rates charged today. Then too, with the Forand Bill as a law, doctors might treat the senior citizen patients with a bit more concern and respect than they do now. If they know senior citizens can pay their way they'll treat them as they do younger patients.

MRS. W. L. BRYSON
Woodside, Long Island

Question and Reply On Canada Pensions

To the Editor:

I would appreciate a little information on an article by John Brewin in the Dec. 26 issue of *The Record*. In that article, he states that "even unionists with top pension plans cannot expect more than \$250 to \$300 a month." I had no idea that workers' pensions in Canada ran that high. I suppose it's a combination of a government old-age pension and an industry pension similar to our District 65 Plan. Can you enlighten me?

STANLEY LEVY
New York City

Mr. Levy's inquiry was referred to Mr. Brewin, who is Ottawa correspondent of the *Canadian Cooperative Press Association* (CPA). Mr. Brewin's reply follows:

Pension plans in Canada vary as to benefits, conditions and amount of workers' contributions.

Non-contributory plans in this country seldom, if ever, produce a pension of more than \$100 a month. Nonetheless, with this and the government pension of \$55 a month as a base, the Canadian worker might push his retirement income up through private plans and life insurance schemes.

Contributory plans which are written into many union contracts can bring a

man's pension up to 70 percent of his income. The amount of pension depends on the size of the contribution, the type of plan and the number of years a worker stays with the same company. Under the better of these plans, retirement income often reaches \$250 to \$300 a year, according to the Canadian Labor Congress Research Department.

There is much controversy even within the union movement about the relative merits of various pension plans. The point still remains. Even under the best of circumstances and with the best of pension plans, the Canadian worker cannot look forward to anything like the \$50,000-a-year pensions which big business executives are voting for themselves.

Cites Arguments Against Fluoridation

To the Editor:

In the Jan. 31 issue of *The Record* you published an article by an eminent dental authority, praising the virtues and benefits of fluoridation and endorsing its use in our water supply.

As an ordinary person without medical knowledge, but keenly interested in maintaining a sound and healthy body, I have tried to keep an open mind on this subject and read articles on both sides of this controversial issue, and I must admit the proponents of fluoridation have not convinced me, and I may add, a great many members of the medical profession. As proof of this I inclose a letter to the *New York Times*. (The letter, by Dr. Max M. Rosenberg, opposed fluoridation and cited several medical authorities also in opposition.)

Fluoride is a powerful poison that has a cumulative effect on our bodies, and although its effects may not be immediately noted, in the long run it could have highly injurious effects. Why then expose the entire population to such hazards when its main object (that of reducing dental cavities in children) can be achieved by better dental hygiene and drastically reducing the amount of candies, cookies and other sweets that children are being fed.

I firmly believe that we are now being fed too many harmful chemicals in the form of food preservatives and additives, chemical sprays on our vegetables and fruit. Many health authorities are highly suspicious that there may be a direct relationship between this practice and the spectacular increases in the prevalence of heart ailment, cancer and many other ailments.

FRED LIFAVI
New York City

Wants Stores Closed Washington's Birthday

To the Editor:

A dangerous trend is spreading among mercenary retail merchants in the New York metropolitan area. Some are contemplating, and others prepared to do business on Washington's Birthday, a day granted to the American citizenry as a national holiday and dedicated to the memory of "the Father of Our Country."

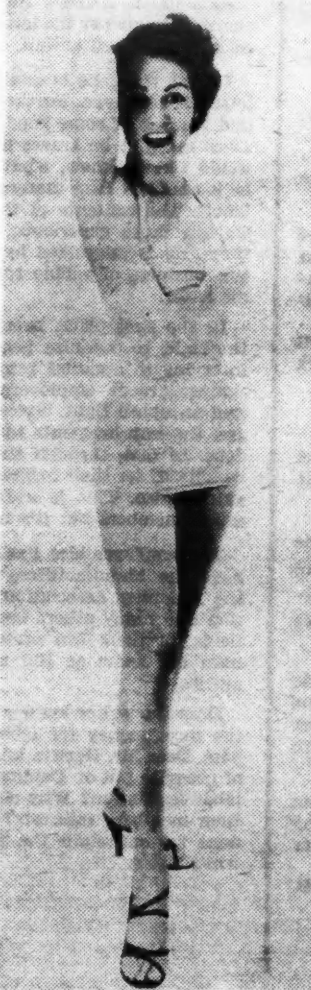
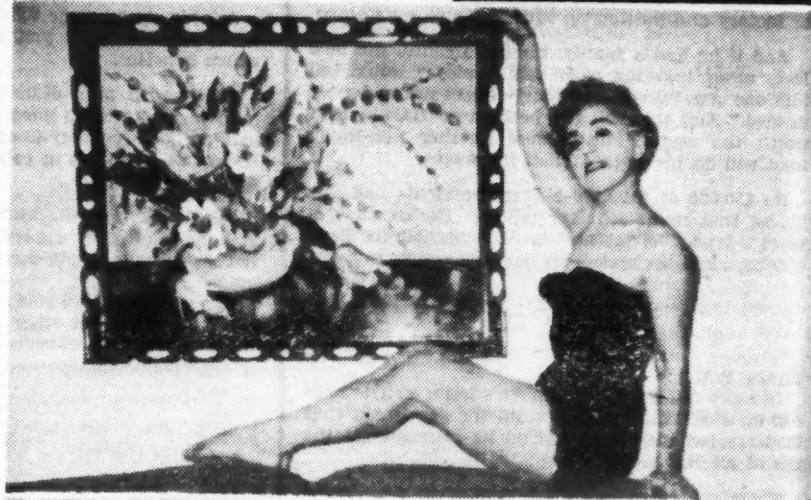
In due respect for the memory of this great patriotic American, all business should cease except those that affect the health and welfare of the people. Our own RWDSU, as an authority in the retail industry, has an opportunity to enhance and gain much stature for the whole of the labor movement. I believe the RWDSU should see to it that any store represented by an RWDSU local should not do business on Washington's Birthday. I am confident that the masses of our patriotic fellow workers are in accord, creating greater solidarity and unity in the labor movement.

JAMES J. ZICCARDI
New York City

First Entries In The Record's Union Queen Contest

PAT REEDER is a 21-year-old comparison shopper at R. H. Macy's and a member of Local 1-S, New York. She's auburn-haired, green-eyed, weighs 120, is 5'5½", tapes 34-24-36.

JUNE GEORGES of New York is a member of Local 1199. A cosmetician, she works at Fisk Chemist. She's 29, a brown-eyed blond, weighs 124, is 5'3" and measures 34½-25-35 in the usual order.



Here they are—the first of what promises to be a big parade of beautiful RWDSU members. These and other entrants in *The Record's Union Queen* contest are eligible for the many valuable prizes that will go to the title winner and to her four runners-up.

There's still time to enter. Any member of any RWDSU local is eligible—including entrants in our previous contests (except for first-prize winners). Here's all you have to do:

- Send in best photos, preferably in bathing suit, since both face and figure count in this contest. Print name and address clearly on back of each photo. All photos will be returned.

- Together with photos, send following information: name, home address, number of local, name of shop where employed, job title, and personal description, including age, color of hair and eyes, height, weight, and measurement of bust, waist and hips.

- The entries will be narrowed down to five finalists by a committee of judges prominent in the entertainment world. Then RWDSU members will choose the winner from among the finalists by mailing in a coupon ballot which will appear in *The Record*.

Send all entries to *The Record's Beauty Contest*, 132 West 43 Street, New York 36, N. Y.

JANE FLOREK of Local 291, Chicago, works as a cashier at Howard Clothes. She's 33, a blue-eyed redhead, is 5'4½", weighs 120 and measures 35-26-37.

rwdsu RECORD

THEATER for THE PEOPLE

Famed City Center Troupes May Be Coming Your Way

By HILBERT ELSON

The City Center of Music, Drama and Dance, New York's own community cultural institution, may be coming to your community soon with its performances of the best in opera, theater and the ballet.

Founded 16 years ago by a group of conscientious community leaders, including several union officials, the nonprofit, membership organization has grown from a modest enterprise with a repertory of three operas (with borrowed costumes and scenery) to a showplace of the performing arts, with the accent on American products. And the people of New York are not the only beneficiaries. Touring the United States and performing abroad, the City Center continues to score triumphs in the city, the nation and throughout the world. (See 1960 itineraries below.)

Superb opera and light opera companies, a drama group and a world-famous ballet troupe draw more than half a million people to the City Center each year. Newest of the Center's projects is an art gallery, offering shows of modern paintings by American artists each month.

A key explanation for the enormous success of the City Center must be that its admission prices remain on a stubbornly low scale. With a \$3.95 top, "they put Broadway to shame," as one Broadway producer puts it. Top artists of the opera and ballet and theater perform on the City Center stage, working for minimum union scale.

Critics find that virtually no other company surpasses the New York City Ballet in artistic excellence, in its style and variety and in the brilliance of its individual dancers. Its ballerinas—Maria Tallchief, Diana Adams, Melissa Hayden, Janet Reed, Allegra Kent—have been acclaimed all over the globe. And under the guidance of George Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein, the company has introduced many firsts in the dance world.

Spurred Popularity of Theatrical Dancing

A large measure of credit is given to the New York City Ballet for the emergence of the art of theatrical dancing during the past 15 years as a major attraction, both artistically and at the box office, all over the country.

The company completed its winter season at the City Center on Feb. 7 and after a vacation will return for its spring season on March 25. It will not go on tour this year, but is planning performances on the West Coast in May and June.

Following the ballet into the City Center on Feb. 11 was the New York City Opera Company. Under the program title, "Panorama of Opera, U.S.A.," it is presenting a series of modern American works: "Street Scene," "Ballad of Baby Doe," "Susannah," "Six Characters in Search of an Author," "The Consul" and "The Cradle Will Rock."

Such innovations in opera repertory have made the City Center a place of curiosity and adventure for music-lovers and has served notice on the world in general—and Europe in particular—that "opera is a growing art-form in the United States," according to the Opera Company's general director, Julius Rudel.

Encouraged by the results of the City Center's experiment with a repertory of modern American opera, the Ford Foundation has made it possible for three other major opera companies in the United States to join in a long-range program with the Center.

The 1960 New York season is shorter than usual for the opera company scheduled to leave early on tour of the nation with the first four of the works listed above. Following is the itinerary:

Feb. 23, New Brunswick, N.J.; 25, Baltimore, Md.; 26, Philadelphia; 27, Washington; March 1, Huntington, W. Va.; 3, Lafayette, Ind.; 4-6, Chicago, Ill.; 7-8, East Lansing, Mich.; 10, Columbus, O.; 11-12, Cleveland, O.; 13, South Bend, Ind.; 14-15, St. Louis, Mo.; 16, Cincinnati, O.; 17, Bloomington, Ind.; 18-19, Detroit, Mich.; 21, Rochester, N.Y.; 22, Syracuse, N.Y.; 23-24, Boston, Mass., and 25-26, Hartford, Conn.

Top Stars Featured in Plays

Productions of the best in modern and classic plays have been presented at the City Center with such stars as Jose Ferrer, Maurice Evans, Edith Anderson, Orson Welles, Tallulah Bankhead and Helen Hayes. The addition of the Center's drama division under the guidance of Jean Dalmonte continues this season with two unusual attractions: the Piccolo Teatro di Milano, the world-famed Italian acting troupe; and "The Visit," with Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne.

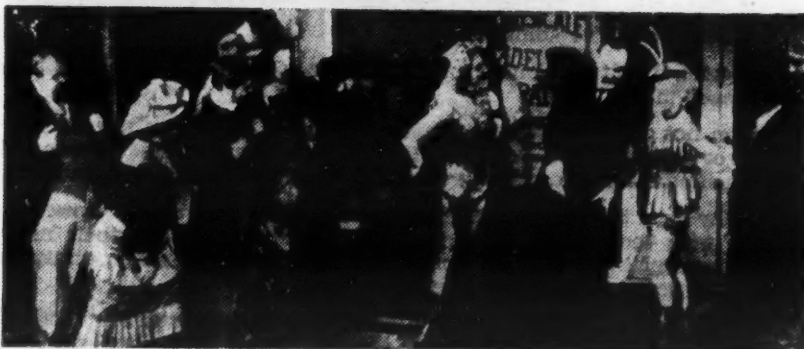
The Italian company, making its debut in the United States, will present Goldoni's "The Servant of Two Masters" from Feb. 23 to March 6. Though done in Italian, the performance is said to be comprehensible to anyone through "the international language" of pantomime and music. Following the City Center engagement, the Piccolo Teatro will make a coast-to-coast tour. The schedule:

March 15-20, Detroit; 22-27, Montreal; 28-Apr. 2, Toronto; Apr. 5-17, Chicago; Apr. 19-May 19, West Coast.

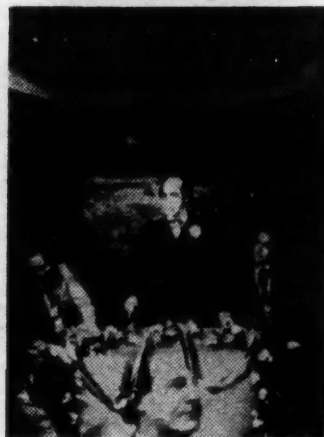
"The Visit," which won the New York Drama Critics Award as the best foreign play of the 1958-59 season, begins a two-week run at the City Center on March 8, starring the legendary Lunts.

The play will be shown in Philadelphia from Feb. 15 to 27, and in Toronto, from Feb. 29 to March 5 before it opens in New York.

February 14, 1960



Scenes from various operas, ballets and plays presented by City Center are shown here. Popular-priced presentations will be touring U.S. and Canadian cities in February and March.





Stop Nagging Me!

By JANE GOODSELL

I simply don't have what it takes to be a modern, clear-eyed, fastidiously groomed, vivacious, well-informed, aware, relaxed American woman, a charming hostess, an educated voter, a pal to my children, wife to my husband, knowledgeable consumer, pillar of the community and an immaculate housekeeper.

I don't even smoke modern, and I'm not sure of my deodorant.

There now! I've admitted it!

No, no, it isn't that I have an inferiority complex. I am inferior. They've convinced me.

I'm not going to seek psychiatric aid, either, or plunge myself into a cause or take up a hobby. I think I'll just sloop around the house in an old kimono and nibble chocolates and ruin my figure and watch the dust settle.

Why am I in such a miserable state of mind? They did it to me. They did it with their constant nagging, their incessant prying, their never-ending complaints and their constant urging to buckle down, straighten up, mend your ways and wake up and live.

They swarm all over me with advice: How to dress well on practically nothing; how to make your marriage succeed; how to build your own tennis court; how to revitalize your complexion; how to take inches off your hips.

They puncture my confidence with nasty-nice little questions and suggestions: Don't be half safe. Is your skin getting the nourishment it needs? Are you sure of your husband's love? Does your house express the Real You? Are you over-protecting your children? Are your pores clogged, is your chimney safe, are your children's shoes properly fitted, does your home smell nice?



It is impossible—absolutely impossible to satisfy them. On the one hand, they warn me not to overfeed my husband into an early grave, and on the other hand (same magazine, same issue) they urge me to delight my husband by serving him Beef Stroganoff and hot apple pie for dinner.

They admonish me not to nag (nagging is a sign of emotional immaturity, and women who nag need psychiatric help), and then they turn right around and tell me to encourage my husband in his work, and to make sure that my children don't read in improper light.

They quiz me like a police sergeant administering the third degree: Are you honest? Are you and your husband compatible? Would you hire yourself? What kind of mother-in-law will you make? Are you really sophisticated? How much courage do you have? Are you up-to-date or out-of-date? (Answer the following 20 questions yes or no, then turn to page 141 to learn your score.)

My scores condemn me as a total and complete failure. But, since the Sunday supplements and the women's magazines wouldn't want to be responsible for a rash of mental breakdowns, they try to take a cheery, encouraging attitude toward even hopeless cases like mine. They don't come right out and tell me I'm a failure. Instead they cock an eyebrow at me and murmur, "You can do better if you try."

Well, I don't want to try! I intend to go right on being dishonest in chintzy little ways (nothing spectacular like daring daylight robberies because I'm too cowardly), and when I become an opinionated, demanding, disagreeable, interfering mother-in-law, I'm going to be just as inefficient, unsophisticated, poorly-informed and anti-social as I am now.

There's only one piece of their advice that I'm going to take. They keep telling me to relax. So okay, I'll relax!

But I'm going to do it in my own way. Hand me my old kimono and a 30,000-calorie box of chocolate creams!



'Record' Drawings by Marjorie Glaubach

Many Still Pass Up Social Security

By SIDNEY MARGOLIUS
Consumer Expert for The Record

Some people who became eligible for Social Security payments under recent changes still haven't applied, officials report.

One of the largest groups believed to be passing up benefits is elderly parents who were dependent on deceased workers. Another group that sometimes fails to apply is totally disabled workers.

Even wives do not always realize they and the children can get payments if their breadwinner dies. Too, families often are unaware the children can have payments if a working mother dies even though the father still lives.

But while many people forfeit benefits for lack of knowledge, harsh rules and secretive procedures have blocked many disabled workers who did apply. Representatives of several unions and the AFL-CIO Social Security Department have protested present rules under which a disabled worker in one state may qualify for benefits, while officials in another state may deny a similar claim.

Let's first get the record straight on dependent parents. If you provide more than half the living expenses of an elderly parent, he or she can get payments if anything happens to you. Under the 1958 amendments your parent is eligible even though you also leave an eligible child or wife.

In fact, dependent parents of covered workers who died any time since 1939 can still apply for payments.

Eligibility of Disabled Workers

In the case of disabled workers, the Social Security Administration has screened its files to locate those made eligible by the recent easing of work requirements. But from some, it never got applications and can't tell who they are. Workers disabled even as long ago as October, 1941 still have until June 30, 1961 to get full benefits.

Young disabled workers can't get payments until they're 50. But they too need to apply by June 3, 1961 to have their wage records frozen retroactively. A worker who had not accumulated enough coverage to be fully insured when he became disabled, could lose all rights to payments if he doesn't apply for the "freeze."

The 1958 amendments also made eligible for payments the dependent children of disabled workers getting benefits, and their wives if over 62 or with dependent children in their care.

The disability payments are really one of the most important features of modern Social Security. They protect you against a universal fear of workers—that they may become crippled by accident or illness and unable to earn a living.

But there are two big loopholes which have frustrated many disabled workers and urgently need fixing. One is the present requirement that you must be 50 to get payments. Actually younger disabled workers need payments even more than older ones. They generally have more dependents. The age-50 requirement could be eliminated without increasing the present disability-insurance tax you pay, deputy Social Security Commissioner George Wyman recently said.

What Constitutes 'Total Disability'?

The other loophole is the present vague rule about what constitutes "total disability," and the fact that Congress left it to the state rehabilitation agencies to determine who is totally disabled.

An Alabama union official, Thermon Phillips, recently charged that the law is being administered "on the assumption that a claimant for disability benefits or for a wage freeze must practically be dead." He revealed that some workers disabled enough to qualify for company pensions have been turned down for Social Security disability benefits.

The real problem is that Congress never defined "total and permanent disability" very closely, and the present interpretation is a severe one. A legless man who can't work at his usual occupation still might be able to run a newsstand, and thus might be denied benefits. That's what a Social Security official told this reporter.

That doesn't mean they can tell a skilled worker he can address envelopes even if housebound. They're not supposed to reduce your work status that much. But they'll still evaluate how much work of any kind you may be able to do.

The AFL-CIO Social Security Department is battling to get this problem straightened out through more liberal standards and giving the Federal Social Security agency final say in judging whether a worker is disabled. At present the Federal agency merely can "suggest" that a state give further consideration if it feels state officials were too severe.

Even if turned down on a Social Security claim you can ask for an appeal—on other types of claims as well as disability. You'll then get a hearing before an impartial examiner, and a chance to tell your story or demonstrate your disability. About one out of seven such recent disability appeals were successful. The rate of success on Social Security appeals of all types is a bit higher—about one out of six.

'Space Shoes' at a Discount

Custom-made molded shoes—the most significant advance in shoe-making in the past 100 years—are available to RWDSU members in the New York City area at an important discount. "Imprints," individually built on exact plaster casts of the feet, often help to strengthen foot and leg muscles, improve lower limb circulation, and give relief for weak arches, corns, calluses and certain painful back conditions.

With normal care, "Imprints" will give 3 to 5 years of service. And dress shoes can be worn after working hours with greater comfort.

Top quality molded shoes like "Imprints" retail at \$65 per basic pair in select grade kidskin. They take about 6 weeks to produce because they are fully hand-made. By special arrangement, members of the RWDSU and their immediate families can purchase "Imprints" at \$45 for a basic pair.

To obtain "Imprints" at the special union price, members must get a referral letter at their local union headquarters and then call Murray 3-1988 for a casting appointment. The "Imprints" laboratory is at 175 Madison Avenue (between 33rd & 34th Sts.), open daily 9-5, Thursdays 9-7, Saturdays 10-3. A \$25 deposit is required on all orders.

lighter side of the record

Foreign Relations

I like the one about the fellow who wrote to the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and asked how to have an affair with an Indian.

—Gene Ingles

Good Lesson

Jones: "I'm through fooling around with alcohol. Durn stuff broke up my home."

Smith: "Whatta matter. Couldn't stop drinkin'?"

Jones: "No, 'twern't that. The damn still exploded."

Rare Yarn

Didja hear about the cannibal who loved his fellow man—medium rare.

Forewarned

Steno: "Don't let mother catch you hugging and kissing me."

Office Mgr.: "But, Mabel, I'm not hugging and kissing you."

Steno: "I thought I'd warn you just in case."

Start Over

Late one evening during a convention held in New York recently, the doorman at the famous Latin Quarter assisted four happy delegates into a taxi and told the driver: "This one goes to the Roosevelt; these two go to the Waldorf; and the one with the hiccups goes to the Statler."

In a few minutes that taxi was back. Beckoning to the doorman, the driver asked: "Would you mind sorting these fellows out again? I hit a bump."

So There

Man on the Street: "Shay lady, muh shigaret lighter quit, ya gotta matsch?"

Hoity-Totty Dowager: "Why, you drunken beast. You don't need a match. You're lit up like a Christmas tree already. If I were in your condition I'd shoot myself."

Man: "Yesh, an' if you wush in my condishion, you'd mish."

No Wonder

The telephone installer stared doubtfully at the formidable looking animal lying on the doorstep. "What kind of a dog is that?" he asked the little old lady.

"Don't rightly know," she said. "My brother sent it from Africa."

"Well," the installer hesitated, "it is the oddest looking dog I've ever seen."

The prim lady nodded her head. "You should have seen it before I cut its mane off."

Lucky for Him

"George is marrying one of those all around girls. She swims, drives a car, golfs, and is a pilot."

"Lucky for George he can cook, isn't it?"

Drastic Step

Mrs. Bahr (slapping her arm) — This is terrible! There must be something I can put on to keep the mosquitos from biting me.

Hubby—There is—clothes.

Ho, Hum!

"I hear Sam Tweedle turned down his divinity degree."

"Yeah, he didn't want to be called Tweedle, D.D."

Added Convenience

A man who hadn't seen a pal for a couple of years told him there was something different about his appearance, and he revealed, "Yes, I've had my wrinkles tightened up by plastic surgery."

"Makes you look younger," said the friend.

"Then, too," came the reply, "it prevents backache. When I need to pull up my socks, I just lift my eyebrows."

Ace in The Hole

Two men were commenting on a friend's bad luck at the horse race.

"Funny," said one, "how lucky Joe is at cards but how unlucky at the track."

"Nothing funny about it," his friend answered. "They don't let him shuffle the horses."

Desperate Choice

A mother of two youngsters was trying to find a babysitter so she could keep a dental appointment. In desperation she called a 10-year-old neighbor's boy in.

"Do you think you can handle Wilbert and Billy?" she asked the little toughie.

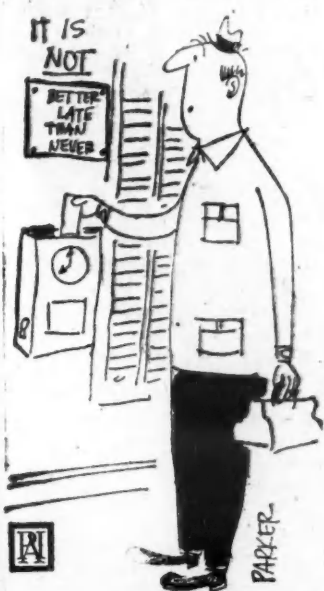
"Don't worry, Mrs. Atkins," replied the boy. "I can beat up any kid on the block."

Candid Comments

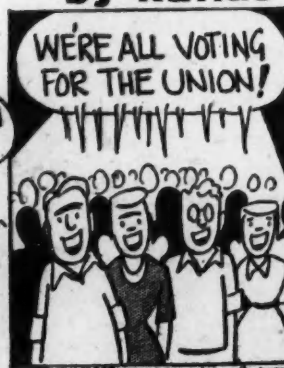
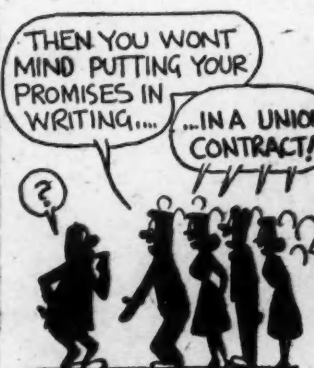
A bad memory today is really an asset. It permits you to enjoy an old movie on television without realizing you saw it years ago.

A new broom sweeps clean, but you can have more fun with an old rake.


Nothing is more exhausting than searching for easy ways to make a living.



common sense



SHE WAS ONLY a railroader's daughter, but Barbara Hill made the cast of "Gypsy" and will dance soon on the Perry Como show.



**Local 670 Wins
NLRB Vote by
153 to 98**


— Page 5

**Good News on
Valentine's Day —
Or Any Other Day**



**More Shops Joining
In Ontario After
Strike Victory**

— Page 8



**3,000 in District 65
Gain Key Demands
In New Contracts**

— Page 5